

WHY NOT BE A MILLIONAIRE.



From the Topick Mail and Express.

"I'm a changin' my mind slightly about this thing uv investin' in minin' stocks and one fool project and another," said Deacon Hayseed.

"I used to think that the man who invested his money in these here minin' stocks that air floatin' round the country was simply a ternal fool who wuz soon parted from his money. I never knowed a man who ever got a cent out uv one uv them there minin' schemes an' I hev knowed a good many people who hev lost all they put in. But as I say, I hev changed my mind somewhat. There is Zeb Watkins, fur the last ten years to my certain knowledge Zeb has been investin' his spare cash in one minin' deal and another and never got a cent back. 'Tother day I seed Zeb in the post-office. He hed just got a letter inclosin' some stock in the 'Little Napoleon Copper mine' located som'ers out in Arizona I think. I asked Zeb how much stock he had and he told me that he had 5,000 shares."

"How much did it cost ye, Zeb? I says, says I.

"Twenty-five dollars," sez he. "Here's the prospectus, deacon," says he. "Right near to one of them big lodes that hez made Clark the richest man in the world perhaps. Some uv the stock in them big mines hez sold fur a hundred dollars a share and there ain't raly no good reason accordin' to this prospectus, why this here mine shouldn't be worth as much as that. In that case, deacon, these here shares will be worth five hundred thousand dollars. Just think of it, deacon—half a million dollars—an' then again, this may be worth more than any of them big mines; it may be worth two hundred dollars a share, no tellin'."

"Zeb," I says, says I, a breakin' in, "you hev been investin' in minin' stocks to my certain knowledge fur the last ten years. Hev you ever drawed out a single solitary cent in the way uv dividends?"

"Nary a cent so fur deacon," he says as cheerful as a jaybird in spring time, "but that ain't no particular reason why I never will. And then, deacon, takin' the worst view of the case possible I figure that I'm ahead on the hul deal."

"How is that?" says I, you must hev paid out a good many dollars fast and last; the hul sum must be up in the hundreds and mebbly in the thousands. If you hev never got a cent back I don't exactly see how you figure that you air ahead on the hul deal."

Well, it's this way, deacon: You heerd my figures on this minin' stock that I hev here in my hand. Well, there ain't raly no good reason why them estimates shouldn't come true. There is just as much reason to suppose that this mine will pass out as there wuz to suppose that one uv Senator Clark's mines would pan out before the ore was discovered. Clark wuz a guessin'; he happened to guess right; why shouldn't I? I hev this much advantage uv him: When he first invested the mines wa'n't developed in that region; now they be. When his fellows commenced to dig, they didn't know fur sure that there wuz any considerable amount uv copper in that country; now we know that there is; that is where I hev the advantage of Clark, you see. But speakin' uv the money I hev heretofore invested. When I invested in any one uv them mines the prospect seemed just as good as this one does now. I invested from twenty-five to fifty dollars in each one. Fur six months or a year after I invested in any one uv them there mines I wuz worth anywhere from five hundred thousand to a million dollars—in my mind—I took excursions to Europe and traveled round through England, France and Germany; loafed round there in o' Greece an' Rome, an' saw where they used to hev the ampatheater and the Olympian games. I hed a little the riparort- ingest time a travelin' yon' ever hear uv—in my mind. I hev durin' the past ten years built seven palaces on the Hudson; costin' all the way from one to five million dollars; tore one down that cost me two millions, because the arrangement uv the towers didn't quite suit me and built another in its place that cost three million dollars. I've owned six different private cars, fitted up with all the luxuries and conveniences fur travelin'. I hev owned at different times in the last ten years five different teams that could throw dust in the eyes uv anything in the city uv New York. I hev owned several private yachts, one uv 'em cost a million

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How To Find Out.

Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours: a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stains your linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

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and a half cash; it wuz a hummer. Hed the best crew that sailed; paid the chief navigator a salary uv ten thousand a year and his board. Sailed around the world three times and visited all the different islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans. I hev hed some uv the most delightful trips, deacon, ye ever heard uv—in my mind—I wisht ye could hev been along to help enjoy 'em; they were simply great. I hev also built seventeen hospitals, and founded ten industrial institutes for the purpose uv pickin' poor boys from the streets and educatin' 'em and fittin' 'em fur business. I hev also built several institutions where old played-out people who hed hed hard luck all their lives and wuz old and poor might hev a comfortable home where they could live comfortable and not feel that they wuz paupers. When I seed a feller that needed a lift and deserved it and wuz bumpin' agin the rocks, I quietly slipped round and left him a thousand or two to git onto his feet with—in my mind. Now, ye see, deacon, I hev been a millionaire and a philanthropist and high roller mighty near all the time fur the past ten years, and it hain't cost me on the average more'n forty dollars a year. Isn't it cheap enough? Then I hev escaped most uv the annoyances that the other millionaires air subject to. There wa'n't nobody tryin' to break into my house to rob me uv my jewelry, because they wasn't aware that I hed any jewelry. Nobody hez been tryin' to blow me up with dynamite or shoot a hole through me on account uv my wealth, because they didn't know that I wuz a millionaire. The society fur the extermination of the rich let me trot right along without even attemptin' to molest me, because they never suspected that when they looked at me they wuz gazin' on probably the greatest plutocrat uv the whole shootin' match. Solicitors who air lookin' fur somebody to endow colleges never bothered me because they didn't know about my affluent circumstances. I didn't ruin my digestive machinery with high livin' like the other millionaires, and there hain't been no high priced doctors untyn' the double bow knots in my intestines and scrapin' the barnacles off from my liver. I haven't been subjected to none uv the annoyances uv the ordinary millionaires, and I hev hed all uv his advantages—in my mind. Now when ye come to think uv it, deacon, if a man kin be a millionaire fur forty dollars a year, isn't it cheap enough?"

"Well, Manda, I confess that I hadn't ever looked at the matter in just them lights before. I'm not so ternal sure that Zeb may not be right about this. About all a feller raly gits out uv this world in the way uv pleasure is in his mind anyway. Maybe that the feller that is a millionaire in his mind raly beats the feller who actually hez the stuff."

It is more profitable to bet on a fool who has look than to put your faith in a sage who can't make connections.

A wise girl goes to a neighboring town to study music when the matrimonial field at home is overworked.

Public sentiment is not always a thing to be proud of: the James boys would not have been possible without public sentiment in their favor.

Pittsfield is now famous. The trolley wire and the telegraph wire together gave it a pull that should entitle it to a place on the map.

There is no rule about the way the men take on about marriage; one will shoot himself because a woman won't marry him, another because she did.

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